This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 4 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor generally in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The Nation is governed by all that has tongue in the Nation; democracy is virtually there.—Carlyle.

WHOLE NO. 1/00 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1940. | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 30, NO. 2

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The present Labor Board and its entire administrative personnel must go!

This has now become the almost unanimous feeling of the American people and of Congress.

The courts also have had their say. Here is a cogent declaration from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago:

"Time and experience have demonstrated that the public, as well as litigants, will tolerate the honest mistakes of those who pass judgment, but not the biased acts of those who would deprive litigants of a fair and impartial trial."

The court directed these words to the National Labor Relations Board in a decision last week reversing one of the Board's rulings.

It was more than two years ago that the American Federation of Labor first raised its voice in protest against the unfair tactics of the Labor Board. Since then abundant proof has been adduced of the justice of the Federation's charges. Day in and day out we read in the newspapers revelations by the House Committee investigating the Labor Board which bear out in every detail the complaints of the American Federation of Labor.

We read about officials of the board who traveled through the country on a Government expense account recruiting members for the C. I. O. We read about agents of the Board who secretly referred to the American Federation of Labor as the "damned A. F. of L." and spoke of C. I. O. cases as "our cases."

No Half-Way Measures

In these circumstances, no half-way measures can be tolerated. Appointment of new board members to replace those now serving will not be enough. A complete house-cleaning of the entire Labor Board setup is imperative. Such a house-cleaning is provided for in one of the American Federation of Labor Amendments to the National Labor Relations Act now pending before Congress. This amendment would abolish the present board, purge its entire personnel and create a new Federal Labor Board of five members.

Even this great forward step is not sufficient to guard against a recurrence of Labor Board trouble. Congress must lay down the rules of the game which the new Labor Board must follow. We have learned the mistake of entrusting wide discretionary authority to quasi-judicial Government agencies. The inevitable consequence is abuse of discretion.

The American Federation of Labor has wisely provided for this contingency. Its amendments contain specific rules for the guidance of the new board. These rules were designed to guarantee fair play to all litigants before the Board. They were not fashioned just to protect the American Federation of Labor and the members of its affiliated unions. They are just as fair to C. I. O. unions. And they guarantee equal fairness to employers. We cannot have favoritism in the law, because favoritism spells injustice.

Thus, the American Federation of Labor amendments do not say that the craft unit must be chosen by the Labor Board as the only appropriate collective bargaining unit. Nor do they say that the industrial unit must be chosen by the Board in every case. Instead of any arbitrary, general rule, our amendments declare that it shall be up to the workers themselves to decide in each case by majority vote who their collective bargaining representative shall be, whether they want to be represented by a craft unit, a plant unit, an industry-wide unit or a geographical unit. That is the essence of democracy. It is in accordance with the spirit of the Act which was created to guarantee to the workers of America the right of self-organization for collective bargaining.

Contrast this amendment sponsored by the American Federation of Labor with the one which the C. I. O. have announced it will seek to obtain. The C. I. O. amendment would require the Board to fix the industrial unit in every case regardless of the wishes of the workers affected. Is that democracy? Is it common fairness?

Furthermore, the C. I. O. wants a new provision in the law to provide fair sentences for employers found guilty of violating the National Labor Relations Act. The American Federation of Labor is strongly opposed to any such idea. We believe it violates the fundamental principle behind the National Labor Relations Act which seeks to establish peaceful and friendly relations between employes and employers.

Instead of trying to imprison employers and thus possibly destroy the jobs of workers, the American Federation of Labor takes a step forward in the opposite direction. We want to be just as fair to employers as we would like them to be toward us. The amendments sponsored by the Federation would permit employers caught in the middle of a dispute between rival unions to file a petition with the Board asking for an election to determine the lawful collective bargaining representatives of his employes. That is only fair.

And we have also included in the Federation's amendments a provision specifically permitting employers to express their opinions to employes if such opinions are not accompanied by intimidation, coercion or threats thereof. Certainly the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution covers this right of free speech, but the Federation has sought to make sure.

In view of the foregoing, can the fairness of the American Federation of Labor's amendments be challenged?

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

A.F.L. Boot-Shoe Union Acted Firmly Against Importing Czech Shoe Workers

President Mara, of A. F. of L. Affiliate, Denies Charge Made By New York Times Correspondent That His Union Did Not Energetically Handle the Bata Shoe Company Case Before the Immigration Bureau.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Editor's note:— In the early summer of 1939 the Bata Shoe Company of Zlin and Prague, Czechoslovakia, applied to James L. Houghteling, U. S. Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, for permission to bring into the United States about one hundred Czechs to act as instructors for training employes at the company's first American plant under construction at Belair, Maryland. President John J. Mara of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, immediately protested against the importation of the Czechs. Later the Boot and Shoe Workers' convention filed a formal protest with the Immigration and Naturalization Bureau. The annual convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor also adopted and filed with the Bureau of Immigration a strong resolution against the importation of the Czechs. The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor also opposed permitting the Bata shoe workers to enter the United States. But the Commissioner of Immigration permitted the Czechs to come in on the plea that the company's machinery and processes differed materially from those in use in the United States.

On December 28, 1939, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Houghteling, acting with the advice and the approval of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, notified Jan A. Bata, head of the Bata Shoe Company, that he would be permitted to temporarily bring into the United States Czech contract workers or employes at the Belcamp Factory. Commissioner Houghteling told Mr. Bata that the Immigration Bureau's investigation had disclosed "certain new processes employed at the Belcamp plant which are not known to skilled American workers, and which might justify the importation of Czechoslovakian workers on the assumption that unemployed skilled American labor of the type required to perform these processes is not available," adding: "Those processes represent such minor portions of the manufacturing operations, however, that further retention of the great majority of these aliens cannot be warranted."

In an article in the New York Times of December 29, 1939, analyzing the ruling of the Commissioner of Immigration, Edwin James, New York Times Washington correspondent and Labor Editor of the Times, depicts the activities of the A. F. of L. Boot and Shoe Workers Union in the Bata case, pays voluminous tribute to the C. I. O. United Shoe Workers Union for having secured the Immigration Commissioner's ruling, "An earlier protest," Mr. Stark said, "was made by the 'Shoe and Boot Workers Union' of the A. F. of L., which did not follow up its complaint."

In a well documented letter to the New York Times President John J. Mara of the A. F. of L. Boot and Shoe Workers Union, charged that Mr. Stark misrepresented the action taken by the A. F. of L. affiliate in the

(Continued on Page 4)

Big Organization Drive Planned By American Federation of Labor

Director of Organization Fenton Declares All Units In the A. F. of L. Are Mobilized to Present the Advantages of Union Membership to 31,000,000 Workers Whose Living Standards Are Low Because They Are Not Enrolled in Bona Fide Unions Affiliated With the American Federation of Labor.

Regional Conferences of Delegates From State Federations of Labor, Central Labor Unions and Local Unions Scheduled For Every Section East of the Mississippi and Texas; President Green Will Address the Atlanta Conference Composed of Three Thousand Delegates From All Southern States.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A gigantic organization drive covering a large portion of the United States is under way by the American Federation of Labor.

The campaign, managed by Frank Fenton, A. F. of L. Director of Organization, is a continuous one mapped to meet the economic conditions which face working men and women in the new decade beginning with 1940.

Confronted with approximately 31,000,000 unorganized workers who still have substandard conditions imposed upon them because they are not union members, the task of the A. F. of L. is to take the message of trade union benefits to every one of them.

To promote this stupendous organization plan, conferences of union representatives will be held in various regions.

This article contains the statement of Mr. Fenton outlining the scope and purpose of the organizing campaign.

ORGANIZING—NEW PLANS FOR A NEW DECADE

By FRANK FENTON

Director of Organization, American Federation of Labor

The genius of American Labor is more than adequate for the giant task of organization that faces us today.

Our task—to establish orderly collective bargaining in the modern production industries—challenges every vestige of the trade union spirit that built up the American Labor movement.

There are more than 6,000,000 unorganized workers in manufacturing industries today; there are some 25,000,000 organized in all industries.

Each one of these workers needs to understand what the trade union can do for him, needs to join a union and learn to act with his fellows through collective bargaining.

It is a colossal task of education—education for membership, for responsibility, for constructive action.

Yet, I repeat, the American Federation of Labor is equal to the task. We have among our leaders and our active members the ability, the wisdom born of experience, the new ideas for a new era; in a word, the genius to undertake this giant task and carry it through.

To organize those workers who as yet have no voice in their wages or conditions, to give them a chance to share the wealth they create, to make them staunch and loyal trade unionists with full understanding and power to act—this is our task.

No one union or central body, State federation or international can accomplish this alone. But by coordinating our efforts, by focusing our thinking and action, by planning to use all our resources it can be accomplished.

That is why the Federation has decided, with the help of international officers and those locally concerned, to hold a series of regional conferences to inaugurate this campaign.

The Building Trades, Metal Trades and Union Label Trades Departments have endorsed this plan.

The conferences will be held in the first half of 1940 and will reach every affiliated organization east of Texas and the Mississippi. Delegates from every State Federation, Central Labor Union and Local Union in this area will be invited to attend for a Saturday and Sunday conference.

The tentative schedule of meetings is as follows:

Appropriate Time	Place	Region Covered
January	Dallas, Texas	Southwest
Early February	Philadelphia, Pa.	Middle Atlantic States
Mid-February	Detroit, Mich.	Ohio, Michigan, Indiana
March 2 and 3	Atlanta, Ga.	Southeast
March (second week)	Hartford, Conn.	New England States
April	Chicago	Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri

Extensive preparations are under way for the Atlanta Conference which will be attended by some 3,000 representatives from all the Southern States. President Green will address this conference.

These conferences will bring together trade union representatives for two purposes:

To lay out plans for organizing and educating the unorganized, these plans to be carried back home and put into action.

To assist unions in carrying on their activities, in securing facts for collective bargaining, in handling cases before Labor Relations Boards and Wages and Hours Boards, in dealing with problems under Social Security, in promoting legislation.

Leaders from State Federations will address the conferences, and persons competent to discuss problems of Social Security, Labor and Wage Board problems.

The outstanding success of a conference of this type held in New England last spring, attended by 650 union delegates and the recent conference in Utah of representatives from 11 States, has led me to inaugurate this series of meetings as the planning ground for new organizing work and service to union members.

Inspiration comes from combining our thought and effort; practical plans grow out of our joint experience.

These conferences may become a great forward step for American Labor.

Banquet In Honor of Meany Will Be Great Event In Washington Jan. 18

Dinner For New Secretary-Treasurer of American Federation of Labor Is Scheduled to Attract Hundreds of Labor Leaders and Their Friends.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Competent observers predict that the banquet at the Willard Hotel here on January 18, 1940, at seven o'clock, in honor of George Meany, new Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, will bring together a very large number of labor leaders and the friends of the organized labor movement.

The Committee on Arrangements consists of the following officials of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions:

Honorary Chairman, William Green, President, American Federation of Labor.

Chairman, I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

George Masterson, Assistant President, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters of the United States and Canada.

John P. Frey, President, Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

John F. Coyne, President, Building and Construction Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

Frank Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus, American Federation of Labor.

Frank Duffy, Secretary, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

T. A. Rickert, President, United Garment Workers of America.

Matthew Woll, President, Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L.

John Coefield, President, United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada.

Joseph N. Weber, President, American Federation of Musicians.

G. M. Bugniazet, Secretary, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America.

George M. Harrison, President, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

Daniel J. Tobin, President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America.

Harry C. Bates, President, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union of America.

Edward J. Gainor, President, National Association of Letter Carriers.

W. M. Maher, President, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America.

Felix H. Knight, President, Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America.

George E. Browne, President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada.

Edward Flore, President Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America.

I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, will act as toastmaster.

The following will be John Coefield, Fourth Vice President of the American Federation of Labor and General President of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada; William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, and George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor.

Following the banquet there will be a floor show, with dancing scheduled to begin at about 10:30.

MACHINISTS GAIN 225 AGREEMENTS

Increased Wages, Paid Vacations and Shorter Hours Are Features of Many Contracts Negotiated by A. F. of L. Affiliate In Seven Weeks.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The International Association of Machinists, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, completed the year 1939 with a record number of new and renewed agreements negotiated in seven weeks covering the period from October 26, to December 20, according to a statement made by International President H. W. Brown.

Of these 225 agreements, 97 provided higher wages for members of Machinists' Local Lodges, and 51 had vacations with pay.

A survey of the agreements indicates that provision for the 40-hour week is contained in most of them with seniority rights of Union members protected and extra rates for overtime work and Sunday and holiday work.

Here are a few of the significant agreements:

In Mobile, Alabama, union members employed by the H. C. Jones Welding Company and the Hardegree Iron Works gained hourly wage increases of upwards to 5 cents.

In Burlingame and Palo Alto, California, working foremen gained a 10 per cent higher rate of pay.

In Emeryville, California, hourly wage increases of upwards to 25 cents were secured for employes of the Jensen Machinery Company.

In San Francisco, California, the agreement with the Pacific States Felt and Manufacturing Company, Inc., contains a 5 and 10 per cent higher rate of pay for employes on the second and third shifts; the agreement with Fraser and Johnston Company contains a 2½ cent hourly wage increase.

In South Bend, Indiana, the agreement with 6 tool and die job shops carries 5 cents hourly wage increases.

In Terre Haute, Indiana, weekly wages upwards to $5 were secured in the agreements with the Model Milk and Ice Cream Company, Inc.

In Springfield, Missouri, the agreement with the Ozark Kelvinator Corporation included a 5 per cent higher rate of pay for employes on the second and third shifts.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, union members employed by the Master Tool and Stamping Company secured hourly wage increases of upwards to 2½ cents.

In Racine, Wisconsin, the agreement with the Electric Tool, Inc., contained hourly wage increases of upwards to 19 cents.

Elevator Operators Gain Wage Increase

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—Officials of the Elevator Operators' and Starters' Union, Local 66, A. F. of L. affiliate, announced that they had signed a new contract, calling for a ten per cent wage increase and a week's vacation each year, with the Chicago Realty Board Association. About 1,000 operators, working in 200 buildings, are affected.

It was reported that provisions for an 8-hour day and time and one-half for overtime are in the old agreement, were included in the new one.

A. F. of L. 1940 Legislative Program Visions Benefits For Toiling Millions

Nine-Point Schedule to Be Considered by Congress Includes Foreign Entanglements and National Defense, Unemployment, National Labor Relations Act Amendments, Housing, Social Security, Un-American Activities, Immigration, Walsh-Healey Act Amendments, and Federal Employes Legislation.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The legislative program of the American Federation of Labor for 1940, made public by William Green, president of the Federation, includes a broad schedule of measures designed to benefit millions of American workers which the Congress of the United States will be urged to enact during the present session.

"This program," Mr. Green declared, "was adopted at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor. It is not the creation of any individual or group but the will of more than four million dues-paid members of the American Federation of Labor, as expressed by the majority vote of their delegates to the convention.

"This great army of working men and women now calls upon Congress to respond to the needs of the people. Through the American Federation of Labor the workers propose a strong and constructive legislative program. The American Federation of Labor will do everything in its power to obtain the enactment of these recommendations."

The major features of the American Federation of Labor's 1940 legislative program follow:

I

FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS—NATIONAL DEFENSE

We are unalterably opposed to our own nation becoming involved in European conflicts. We favor the exercise of neighborly and mediatorial influence by our Government in all efforts to promote peace. But, in doing this, we insist that our Government pursue a judicious policy, exercising firmness and caution and a determination to avoid involvement in European wars.

We ask Congress to approve adequate appropriations for national defense so we can courageously maintain our neutrality and eliminate any threat of invasion of our rights or territory by aggressor nations.

II

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment remains our most grievous national problem.

The American Federation of Labor is not willing to tolerate even the idea of permanent unemployment. We know that idle plants can be brought into operation, idle capital can find investment in productive enterprise and idle men and women can be put to work producing the goods they need for a decent living. Our nation has all the elements necessary to provide an adequate living for every American family. We back only the proper coordination of effort.

We recommend that Congress create a National Advisory Council on which labor, farmers and consumers should be represented, as well as Government and industry, in order to bring about such coordination.

We favor the enactment of legislation to establish a seven-hour day, five-day week by legislation or collective bargaining to lift industry out of its stagnation, to provide more jobs, to increase consumer power and to raise the level of American living standards.

We favor the appropriation of an adequate appropriation for unemployment relief. We insist that the prevailing wage principle be restored to work relief programs. We urge the creation of a permanent public works program to take up unemployment slack.

III

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT AMENDMENTS

We strongly urge Congress to enact promptly the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act introduced at the last session on behalf of the American Federation of Labor by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts and Representative Barden of North Carolina.

Events have placed special emphasis on the imperative and immediate need for our amendment which abolishes the present National Labor Relations Board and substitutes in its place a new Federal Labor Board of five members. Thus a complete housecleaning of the biased board and its biased personnel can be effected.

Along with this amendment we call for two other vital changes in the law which are included in the Walsh and Barden bills.

The first would make the board give the workers the opportunity to decide for themselves in each case by majority vote whether the unit for collective bargaining shall be the members of the trade in which they are engaged, a group of trades, the entire plant, all the plants of the same employer, all the plants of all employers in the same industry or all the plants of all employers in the same industry in any geographical area. This is the only fair method to all concerned. It substitutes democracy for the present autocratic policy of the board in fixing units without regard to the wishes of the workers involved. This amendment will check the present tendency of the board to attempt to shape the form and character of the trade union movement.

The final major amendment we seek would restrict the power of the board to abrogate legitimate contracts between workers and management.

IV

HOUSING

We recommend the continuation and extension of the Federal housing and slum clearance program with adequate funds to carry on this much needed work. We ask amendment of the Federal Housing Act to prevent granting of Federal mortgage insurance on sub-standard housing and another amendment requiring the payment of prevailing wages on all projects on which the mortgage is insured by the F. H. A.

V

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Security program should and can be improved. We call upon Congress to create an Advisory Council to study the operations of the Social Security program and recommend improvements.

We urge Congress to enact uniform Federal standards for Unemployment Compensation to eliminate the wide differences that now exist in State laws and to raise benefit levels. (A bill incorporating the A. F. of L. amendments has just been introduced by Representative McCormack of Massachusetts.)

We favor the enactment of health insurance legislation on a sound and workable basis.

VI

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

We view with approval the splendid work accomplished by the so-called Dies Committee in exposing the subversive activities of Communist, Nazi and Fascist organizations in this country. It is essential to our national welfare that this investigation be continued and we ask Congress to supply the Committee with the necessary funds.

VII

IMMIGRATION

We urge Congress not to weaken the structure of the present immigration laws.

VIII

WALSH-HEALEY ACT AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Walsh-Healey Government Contracts Act were introduced at the last session by Senator Walsh and adopted by the Senate but no action on the measure was taken by the House. We recommend the passage of this bill.

IX

FEDERAL EMPLOYES LEGISLATION

We support the recommendations of organizations of Government employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, for remedial legislation to secure improvements in their working conditions. We ask Congress to adopt these bills so as to fulfill the established policy of the Government to be a model employer.

Social Security Pensions In 1940 Range From $20.60 to $41.20 Monthly

Wives Over 65 Entitled to $10.30 to $20.60; One Dependent Child, $10.30 to $20.60; Widows, $15.45 to $30.90; Widow and One Child, $25.75 to $51.50; Widow and Two Children, $36.05 to $72.10.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Editor's note—The United States is flooded with statements regarding the new Federal old-age and survivors pension system which became effective on January 1. Many of the statements are inaccurate. Some of them exaggerate the benefits under the social security law, others minimize the benefits, and still others fail to give important details. In order to present the facts regarding the new system, the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service publishes the following official statement issued by the Social Security Board setting forth the important details of the Federal old-age and survivors insurance program.

The Federal old-age and survivors insurance program, providing monthly payments to retired commercial or industrial workers and their families, got under way January 1. Examination of the first 2,000 claims received by the Social Security Board indicates that combined benefits of a worker and his wife, providing payments in the year 1940, will range from $10.30 to $61.80.

The Board also estimates, as the result of this sample study, that monthly benefits received by a single person will range from $10 to $41.20. Benefits for a widow, regardless of age, and a dependent child under 16 years of age, or 18 if in school, will range from $15 to $62.40.

Board actuaries estimate that benefits payable to a retired wage earner in 1940 will average about $25 and about $38 for the combined benefit of a retired wage earner and his aged wife.

Monthly Benefits For Various Groups Itemized

Under this amended program the wife of a retired worker is entitled to a supplementary benefit when she reaches age 65. Her payment will equal one-half of her husband's basic monthly benefit. A dependent child under 16, or under 18 if attending school, is entitled to a supplementary benefit equal to one-half of the father's annuity. The following table shows examples of monthly benefits after 5 years in covered employment for the retired wage earner and his dependents;

Average monthly wage	Wage earner's monthly benefit	Benefit for wife over 65	Benefit for dependent child
$50	$20.60	$10.30	$10.30
100	25.75	12.87	12.87
150	30.90	15.45	15.45
200	36.05	18.02	18.02
250	41.20	20.60	20.60

The new program also provides benefits for the widow and orphans of an insured wage earner. In case he leaves no such benefits, his dependent parents over 65 may receive monthly benefits. A widow over age 65 is entitled to a benefit equal to three-fourths of her husband's basic monthly benefit. A widow below the age of 65 who has dependent children in her care receives a similar benefit. In addition, a dependent child under 16, or 18 if attending school, receives a benefit equal to one-half of the basic monthly benefit. The table below shows examples of monthly benefits for survivors:

Average monthly wage	Widow's benefit	Total benefits for widow and 1 child	Total benefits for widow and 2 children
$50	$15.45	$25.75	$36.05
100	19.31	32.18	46.06
150	23.17	38.63	54.07
200	27.04	45.06	63.08
250	30.90	51.50	72.10

All employment except for certain specifically excluded types of work is covered under the old-age and survivors insurance provisions of the Social Security Act. For instance, cooks, maids, butlers, chauffeurs, and gardeners, who are employed by private families, are excluded. However, these same workers should obtain jobs in hotels, restaurants, service stations, or in other commercial or industrial establishments, they would be covered by this Federal insurance system.

Covered employment, generally speaking, is a job in a factory, shop, mine, mill, store, office, American ship, National or State bank, building-and-loan association, or other place of business.

Many Workers Are Barred From Insurance

Jobs not covered are, in general, as follows: Agricultural labor; domestic service; government work; work for an educational, charitable, or other nonprofit organization; work on railroads (this is covered by the Railroad Retirement System); work in the fishing industry; work as a newsboy; certain kinds of intermittent work performed for a son, daughter, spouse, or for a parent if the child is under 21.

Insurance Tax Paid by Both Employee and Employers

The Federal system is similar to other insurance plans. The worker pays a contribution, so does his employer, to help meet the costs of the benefits which the worker will receive. In other words, he pays a premium on what might be called an insurance policy. He will pay benefits to him when he is 65 or over and to his family if he should die.

The old-age insurance tax paid by the worker is 1 per cent of his wages and for the employer it is 1 per cent on the worker's wages. The employer deducts 1 per cent from the worker's wages and sends that with his own 1 per cent wage tax to the Federal Government. The law provides that the employer shall give each worker on the books a receipt for the money he has paid in. He must furnish such a receipt at least once a year or whenever a worker leaves his employ.

Wage Accounts Kept For Over 47,000,000 Workers

Over 47,000,000 workers now have accounts with the Social Security Board. Each worker's wages, as reported by his employer every 3 months, are recorded in his individual account.

If a worker has reason to believe that a mistake has been made in his wage record or that all of his wages have not been reported, he should request from the Social Security Board a statement of his wage total. Discrepancies which may thus be found in any wage earner's record will be corrected by the Board.

Any worker can get a post-card request form at the nearest field office of the Social Security Board. All he has to do is fill in this form and mail it to the Board, which will send him a statement showing the wages credited to his account.

Several changes were made in the financing provisions of the Federal system when Congress amended the act last summer.

$25,000,000 In Insurance Taxes Saved

The tax, which was to increase in 1940, has been "frozen" at its present level of 1 per cent on employers and 1 per cent on employees until 1943. It is estimated that employers and wage earners will thus save about $825,000,000 in the next 3 years.

Beginning with 1940, any wages over $3,000 which a worker receives will not be counted toward benefits. A man who works for several employers may perhaps pay taxes on wages up to $3,000 from each employer; but at the end of the year, he may file a claim with the Treasury Department and receive a refund of the taxes he paid for that year, on wages over $3,000.

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund Established

The "Old-Age Reserve Account," which is set up under the original Social Security Act, is replaced by an "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund," effective January 1, 1940. All of the old-age insurance tax money collected by the Treasury is now paid into this amended old-age insurance trust fund. Old-age and survivors insurance benefits will be paid out of this fund which is to be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Labor, and the Chairman of the Social Security Board.

Beer Company Ordered To Cease Discouraging Membership In Beverage Salesmen's Union

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Instructive information regarding the methods resorted to by anti-union firms to prevent organization of their employes into bona fide unions is revealed in the decision of the National Labor Relations Board directing P. Ballantine & Sons, Newark, New Jersey, to cease discouraging membership in Wholesale Licensed Alcoholic Beverage Salesmen's Union, No. 20276-B, Beer Division, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; and to reinstate with back pay five employees found to have suffered by reason of the company's discrimination.

The NLRB gave the following account of the company's tactics, as revealed by many of the facts uncovered in its survey of the firm's anti-union procedure:

About November 1, 1938, James F. Kennedy became interested in organizing the beer and ale salesmen employed at the Plaza Office. On November 18 approximately 21 of the salesmen attended a union organizational meeting at Kennedy's behest. The board found that applications for membership and dues were signed by all persons present.

The following morning Kennedy was notified by Douglas Gordon, assistant sales manager, that his services were no longer desired by the company. The next day Gordon assembled the salesmen and informed them that the organization effort was to be dropped, we will immediately take action and discharge each and every one of you."

Following this speech and Kennedy's discharge, Gordon employed Thomas J. Maguire, Kurt Knaust, and Vincent McGuire, allegedly for the purpose of securing new business. The board stated that these three "specialty salesmen" were "unanimously instructed by Gordon to accompany certain regular salesmen on their routes for the purpose of surveillance and reporting to him any union activity which they might observe." Upon this showing, the board held that the company by means of espionage and antiunion statements had interfered with, restrained, and coerced its employees in their self-organizational rights.

UNION SUPPORT FOR LABOR PRESS URGED

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter sent to officers of national and international unions, state federations of labor and city central labor unions, called attention to the action of the 1939 A. F. of L. convention which "expressed deep appreciation of the service which the labor press is rendering in giving to the American Federation of Labor," adding:

"The convention directed that all affiliated units be called upon to give a full measure of support to the publicity program of the American Federation of Labor and to the bona fide labor press."

Mr. Green urged that the A. F. of L. affiliates mobilize their forces to make this action of the convention effective.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR VETERANS BEGINS

Employment Agencies Are Also Mobilized to Find Jobs for Former Soldiers in New Safeward Employment by Private Industry.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 30,000 veterans in more than 1,000 CCC camps throughout the United tates should be cheered by the announcement that national, State, and local vocational, educational, and employment agencies are joining forces in a Nationwide guidance, training, and placement program that is expected to provide jobs for thousands of veterans.

J. W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education and Adviser to the War Department on CCC Camp education problems, outlined the program which he has full charge of camp educational advisers and directors, War Department officials, representatives of the American Legion and other veterans' organizations, U. S. Employment Service and Veterans' Placement Service offices.

CCC educational advisers from veterans' camps in the New England States recently met in Boston, Mass., to make further plans to carry forward this special training and placement program for veterans. Commissioner Studebaker said that other meetings similar to the one there will be held throughout the country in order to stimulate the veterans' "camp-to-work" movement.

Howard W. Oxley, Director of CCC Camp Education, said that the CCC hopes to point the way to employment for many thousands of veterans through this special Federal-State cooperative effort. "I believe," said Director Oxley, "that with organized assistance through the 1,800 thousands of veterans can be brought upto-date in their work performed for a son, daughter, spouse, or for a parent if the child is under 21.

Insurance Tax Paid by Both Employee and Employers

The Federal system is similar to other insurance plans. The worker pays a contribution, so does his employer, to help meet the costs of the benefits which the worker will receive. In other words, he pays a premium on what might be called an insurance policy. He will pay benefits to him when he is 65 or over and to his family if he should die.

The old-age insurance tax paid by the worker is 1 per cent of his wages and for the employer it is 1 per cent on the worker's wages. The employer deducts 1 per cent from the worker's wages and sends that with his own 1 per cent wage tax to the Federal Government. The law provides that the employer shall give each worker on the books a receipt for the money he has paid in. He must furnish such a receipt at least once a year or whenever a worker leaves his employ.

Wage Accounts Kept For Over 47,000,000 Workers

Over 47,000,000 workers now have accounts with the Social Security Board. Each worker's wages, as reported by his employer every 3 months, are recorded in his individual account.

If a worker has reason to believe that a mistake has been made in his wage record or that all of his wages have not been reported, he should request from the Social Security Board a statement of his wage total. Discrepancies which may thus be found in any wage earner's record will be corrected by the Board.

Any worker can get a post-card request form at the nearest field office of the Social Security Board. All he has to do is fill in this form and mail it to the Board, which will send him a statement showing the wages credited to his account.

Several changes were made in the financing provisions of the Federal system when Congress amended the act last summer.

$825,000,000 In Insurance Taxes Saved

The tax, which was to increase in 1940, has been "frozen" at its present level of 1 per cent on employers and 1 per cent on employees until 1943. It is estimated that employers and wage earners will thus save about $825,000,000 in the next 3 years.

Beginning with 1940, any wages over $3,000 which a worker receives will not be counted toward benefits. A man who works for several employers may perhaps pay taxes on wages up to $3,000 from each employer; but at the end of the year, he may file a claim with the Treasury Department and receive a refund of the taxes he paid for that year, on wages over $3,000.

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund Established

The "Old-Age Reserve Account," which is set up under the original Social Security Act, is replaced by an "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund," effective January 1, 1940. All of the old-age insurance tax money collected by the Treasury is now paid into this amended old-age insurance trust fund. Old-age and survivors insurance benefits will be paid out of this fund which is to be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Labor, and the Chairman of the Social Security Board.

A.F.L. AUTO UNION SIGNS UP MILWAUKEE COMPANY

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLWNS)—George E. Kinsley, Jr., representing the International Union United Automobile Workers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced that Local 886 had negotiated a satisfactory agreement with the Sinlper Steel Products Company in Milwaukee.

The agreement included provisions regarding as standard by the union for wages, seniority and vacations with pay. Seniority is to be on a straight plant-wide basis.

One hundred per cent of the plant employes are members of the union, it is

Special Committee to Handle Toledo's Relief Problems Is Urged by Dillon

American Federation of Labor Representative, Speaking For the Toledo Central Labor Union, Tells City Council that Remedies for Widespread Unemployment Can Best Be Considered by an Organization Composed of Spokesmen For All Responsible Groups.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Toledo, Ohio—One thoroughly constructive plan for the consideration of the unemployment and relief problem in Toledo was presented to the City Council by Francis J. Dillon, representative of the American Federation of Labor in Toledo and adjacent territory.

The resolution proposed that the Mayor of the city convene responsible representatives of employers, merchants, financiers, civic groups, fraternal and religious organizations and representatives of the American Federation of Labor to consider the broad aspects of the unemployment and relief problem and recommend constructive remedies designed to meet the situation which causes so much suffering to working men and women in the unemployed army.

Text of the Dillon Resolution

The following is the text of the resolution which Mr. Dillon presented to the Council, together with unanswerable arguments in favor of its adoption:

"A Resolution providing for the creation of a committee consisting of prominent citizens of Toledo, representative of all groups and trends to investigate the causes of widespread unemployment in Toledo and to explore the possibilities of formulating a program designed to remedy the evils and suffering resulting from an acute economic situation upon a community and voluntary basis.

Unemployment Problem Is Unsolved

"Whereas, over a long period of years there has developed within the industrial centers of our Nation a complex economic and social problem responsible for widespread unemployment with all of its attendant misery, suffering and class antagonism, which manifestly requires the resources, ingenuity and courage of all of our citizens generally if a practical and mutually satisfactory solution is to be evolved; and

Unemployment Suffering Afflicts Thousands

"Whereas, more than 25 thousand citizens of Toledo, Ohio, are vitally affected by reason of this combination of circumstances and there appears to be ample evidence to indicate that this vast group of men and women are at this moment in dire need of food, clothing and shelter because of their inability to secure employment in private industry; and

Government Must Take Initiative In Creating Employment

"Whereas, it is an accepted responsibility of a democratic form of Government to relieve distress from its clothing and shelter for those of its citizens so affected by resort to taxation or to utilize the powers, influence and authority of Government to mobilize its resources in an orderly and constructive way in an effort to make available in private industry additional jobs for those citizens that all citizens now unemployed may provide for themselves and dependents through the creation of additional wealth and a guarantee of a proportional purchasing power in conformity with the finer concepts of our American system; and

Relation to Not Unemployment Solution

"Whereas, economists, students and authorities have placed upon the problem of relief and unemployment agree that recourse to taxation as a possible remedy of the existing situation does not constitute a permanent solution of the problem nor is it in conformity with the traditional American spirit; and

Expansion of Private Industry Is Only Remedy

"Whereas, it is a recognized economic necessity to rehabilitate the unemployed through the development and expansion of private industry, thereby increasing power which is the motive force of all business activity; and

"Whereas, the Toledo Central Labor Union chartered by the American Federation of Labor, recognizes the importance of aid being taken by the Toledo City Council immediately in an effort to solve the unemployment problem in a manner and upon an economically sound basis, this distressing situation; and

City Council Asked to Create Conference to End Unemployment

"Whereas, it would appear that the public interest generally can best be served by the Toledo City Council calling together a representative group to carry out the intent and the purpose of this Resolution; therefore, be it

"Resolved, by the Council of the city of Toledo that the Honorable Mayor of the City of Toledo be authorized and directed to, extend an invitation on behalf of the City of Toledo to responsible representatives of employers, merchants, financiers, civic groups, fraternal and religious organizations as well as responsible representatives of the American Federation of Labor, to participate in a joint conference to explore the possibilities of agreeing on fundamental principles which will provide a mutually satisfactory solution of the existing economic and social problems in the industrial centers of our Nation and affect the citizens of the City of Toledo; and be it

Conference Urged

"Resolved, that the Honorable Mayor of the City of Toledo appoint a committee of five members of Council of which he shall be a member and be its presiding officer, with full authority to call such conference at the earliest practical date the intent, purposes and spirit of this Resolution."

Low Jobless Benefits In Nation's Capital

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—The first statistical breakdown showing the extent to which the increase in the number of unemployed in the Nation's capital who have exhausted their employment benefits during the past two years were made public by Unemployment Insurance Director John Marshall.

According to Mr. Marshall's report, Government is either giving 4186 women among last year's beneficiaries; and 5789 Negroes, while the average duration of payments was 14 weeks (possible maximum is 16 weeks).

During the first year of weekly payments, 1938, there were 16,441 whites and 3884 Negroes; in 1939, 4186 and 5818 Negroes; average duration of payments was 12 weeks.

Weekly allowance averaged $9 for both years.

A. F. of L. City Central Bodies Urged To Keep Roster Of City Fire Departments

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called attention of all central labor unions to resolution No. 90, unanimously adopted by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor directing that "all central labor unions have on file at their office or headquarters a complete roster of the city fire departments and whenever possible a list of delinquent or ineligible members of such departments."

Mr. Green urged that officers and members of city central bodies comply with the convention recommendation.

CIO AUTO WORKERS FAIL IN KANSAS CITY DRIVE

A. F. of L. Unions Stand Firm Against False Statements Designed to Disrupt the Membership.

Kansas City, Mo. (AFLWNS)—The gutter tactics used by the CIO auto workers' officials in their attempt to lure members away from the locals of the A. F. of L. auto workers union here were recently disclosed when at a mass meeting called for automobile workers at which the principal CIO speakers were R. J. Thomas, Walter Reuther, and Delmond Garst.

The regular business meetings of Locals No. 93 and No. 249 of the A. F. of L. United Automobile Workers of America were held the same night following which a number of loyal members of the two locals attended the CIO meeting to witness the fares pulled off by the CIO group.

The mass meeting was attended by approximately one hundred persons, including those who were there as observers and those who were there from other CIO groups such as the packing house workers and steel workers. A liberal estimate of the number of auto workers who were there as active CIO people did not exceed twenty-five.

Gilbert E. Jewell, president of Local No. 93, U. A. W. A., affiliated with the A. F. of L., who attended the mass meeting as an observer, gave the following account of what occurred:

"The meeting was a farce of the worse kind and would have been very amusing had the purpose behind it not been so tragic. The resolutions that were adopted there were railroaded through mainly for the purposes of publicity and to lead people who have no actual knowledge of the situation in Kansas City into believing that the CIO is about to take Local 93.

"After these resolutions were adopted, I and other officers and members of Local 93 attempted to ask questions of R. J. Thomas, Walter Reuther, and Delmond Garst, which would have exposed many of the lies that they have been telling in Kansas City and elsewhere. After several of these questions, Delmond Garst, who was chairing the meeting, immediately adjourned it, and he and his cohorts slunk from the hall."

A.F.L. FUR WORKERS WIN THREE SHOPS IN TORONTO

Toronto, Canada (AFLWNS)—The Fur Workers' Bulletin issued by the A. F. of L. Fur Workers Union in Toronto announces the following information regarding the withdrawal of workers from the C. I. O. International Fur Workers' Union and their affiliation with the A. F. of L. union:

"The workers of The International Fur Workers' Union have definitely decided to rid themselves of the Hitler-Stalin gang which has been misleading a part of the fur industry of Toronto for the past two years. First to dissociate themselves from the Communist-controlled International Fur Workers' Union were the workers employed by Jacob Weinzweig & Perensen, and Kaman. The workers of these three shops have applied for charters of the A. F. of L. Fur Workers' Union.

"The action of these workers is applauded by many workers who are still members of the C. I. O. International Fur Workers' Union and who are waiting eagerly for the first chance that they, too, may free themselves from the yoke of the Communist clique which has been dominating and terrorizing the fur workers for the past two years. The workers of the International Union Shop, Bernard and Delmar, came many any longer under the control of Stalin's commissars who are not interested in the welfare and future of the fur workers, but are solely interested in political manoeuvres and domination."

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Special Interests Lead Bitter Fight Against Wage-Hour Law, A.F.L. Warns

Long-Hour, Low-Pay Employers Are Determined to Nullify Measure Which Has Benefited Millions of Workingmen and Women.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

An extremely worded warning against "powerful special interests in certain industries who are leading a bitter fight to exempt some two millions of the lowest paid wage earners" from the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, "on the pretext that their industrial operations are supposedly agricultural," was voiced by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The determination of this group to nullify the provisions of the Act so far as their own interests are concerned was brought to the attention of the convention by the A. F. of L. Executive Council in their report on the "Nature of Wage and Hour Regulation" under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Committee on Resolutions commended the Executive Council for its warning and recommended that the convention adopt the Council's statement as its own declaration.

"Experience with the scale of application of minimum wage, maximum hour and child labor standards of the new Act," the statement said, "has on the initial year of its operation was no liable for the extent of voluntary compliance with these standards by employers.

"As has been noted, complaints of violations were registered in the case of only one out of every 500 workers employed by the law. There are indications, however, that the application of the 30-cent minimum wage and 42-hour work week which go into effect on October 24, 1939, will call for many vigilant policing of the wage and hour standards than has been the case before. This need will be further enhanced as minimum wages for additional individual industries are promulgated by the Administrator under the industry committee procedure.

"Special interests, such as the powerful canning and packing industry group, which have led a bitter fight to exempt some 2,000,000 lowest paid wage earners on the pretext that their industrial operations were supposedly agricultural, will undoubtedly increase the vigor of their attack and continue to press for the outright repeal of the law as the minimum standards are bettered.

"Thus increased responsibility will fall upon organized labor to preserve the continued operation of the law and to insure its enforcement. The availability of but a small staff of newly-recruited inspectors and almost inexperienced force of personnel with background of seasoned trade union experience in the Wage and Hour Division make clear the pressing need for more active labor participation in the enforcement and administration of the Act."

Ninety Agreements Signed In 1939 By New York Hotel Trades Council

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The New York Hotel Trades Council, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is well pleased with the achievements during 1939 in negotiating agreements with hotels in the Nation's metropolis.

Jay Rubin, president of the council, said that with only one strike in the New York hotel industry, that of the Hotel Governor Clinton, now in its tenth month, giving indications of settlement at least during the first part of 1940, New York's hotel workers for the first time in many years are not planning widespread hotel strikes.

Crediting this to the fact that the union during the past year signed agreements with about 90 hotels giving workers increased wages and improved conditions, Mr. Rubin asserted that three highest lines that the union has maintained for some time at the Hampshire House, the Hotel Pierre and the Plaza Hotel, Manhattan, would be maintained unless the managements retreated from "their antiunion attitude in refusing to bargain collectively with the union or to sign agreements." The union has been certified as collective bargaining agent for the employees of each of these hotels but no strike has been called in them.

Mr. Rubin also announced that unfair lists against hotels have been filed by the New York Hotel Trades Council with the State Labor Relations Board against a group of about 15 hotels in which the union is certified but where management, according to the union, have refused to enter in good faith into collective bargaining conferences. These hotels include the Savoy-Plaza, the Gotham, the Navarre, the Hampshire House, the Buckingham and the Seymour.

Reviewing hotel workers' gains since the first of last year, Rubin said:

"Since the council signed the first agreement with the Hotel Association last January our membership has increased to about 25,000, and 90 hotels have individually signed the union agreement, making it effective in their hotels.

"Among those signed lately are the Algonquin, the American Women's Association, the Mayflower and the Franconia.

"Hotel employees in signed houses receive more than $1,000,000 a year increase in their pay envelopes. They are assured of union recruitment, paid vacations and many other benefits.

"Both the council and the organized hotel workers are looking forward to the new year under the existing condition of unionism. Nevertheless, while part of the industry has been stabilized through organization and union recognition, the hotel workers are determined to use every legal and rightful weapon at their disposal to compel those whose management still opposes shop basis to extend the union benefits to their workers."

Union Safety Committees and Exclusive State Workmen's Compensation Funds Urged by AFL

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—The importance of the establishment of safety committees in unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the mobilization of organized labor for the extension of exclusive State funds for workmen's compensation, in accordance with the recommendation of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, was stressed by William Green, president of the Federation, in a letter addressed to the officers of national and international unions, State federations of labor and city central labor unions.

"Resolution No. 5, which was unanimously adopted by the Convention," Mr. Green wrote, "recommends that all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor set safety committees within their organizations and to actively engage in the promotion of safe and healthful work practices.

"This resolution also provided that the Federation of Labor should urge the application of the benefits of workmen's compensation laws to all workers and that exclusive State funds be, set up so that injured workers may receive the full benefits due them, and at the same time bring about a reduction in compensation insurance costs."

The officers and members of all A. F. of L. organizations were urged by Mr. Green to mobilize their efforts in the advancement of these recommendations.

MEN OUTNUMBER WOMEN PENSION APPLICANTS

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Analysis of the first 1,948 claims for Federal old-age and survivors insurance monthly benefit payments shows that they were filed with the Social Security Board by 1,813 men and 135 women employes in commerce and industry, who stated they intend to retire from active work after January 1, 1940, the effective date of this Government's insurance program.

In making public this analysis, the Social Security Board stated it would receive the checks for the first month of January, for payment on February 1, except in those workers who have already received lump-sum payments. Deductions for the full amount of such payments are required by law before monthly payments will commence.

The 1,948 claims received to date represent only a small start of newly-recruited inspectors and almost inexperienced force of personnel with background of seasoned trade union experience in the Wage and Hour Division make clear the pressing need for more active labor participation in the enforcement and administration of the Act."

Chicago Coopers Land Wage Boost Agreement

Chicago, Ill. (AFLWNS).—At the conclusion of a strike of two weeks, officials of Local No. 67 of the Coopers' International Union of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, signed contracts for a five cent increase per hour on all classes of tank work.

In addition to the raise in pay, the signing of the agreements accelerated the moral victory of progress by a concerted and united action of union members and impartial to them a feeling of confidence in their local and international affiliation that no obstacle is too great to surmount when union members stick together.

widows and dependent parents over 65, and widows, regardless of age, with children under 18, if in school, or dependent school children under 18 years old.

Of the 1,948 claims studied, only 16 of the applicants for benefits over 65 and therefore immediately eligible for benefits. Another 653 had wives between 60 and 65; 500 had wives under 60. Those wives will be eligible for monthly benefits of one-half the size of their husband's benefits when they attain the age of 65, if they are still living with their husbands. They will be eligible at 65 for monthly benefits of three-fourths the size of their husband's monthly benefit in the case of his death.

Larger Pensions For Needy Aged Asked By the American Federation of Labor

Variable Federal Grants Urged for States With Low Per Capita Income; Present Payments Ranging From Average Low of $6.05 to An Average High of $32.46 Held Not Adequate to Decently Support Destitute Old People.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The importance of larger Federal payments to the state for pensions to indigent aged was emphasized by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pointing out that California is the only State that pays its aged an average monthly pension of more than $30 and that in a number of States the average is less than $10, in one State as low as $6.05, the convention expressed the belief that although these sums cannot be called genuine social security they indicate the economic capacity of the States concerned to meet the problem of caring for destitute old rather than differences in need.

Federal Government's Contribution Raised to $20

On the general subject of old age assistance and Federal contributions to the States to enable them to provide proper care for aged people unable to look after themselves, the convention declared:

"The Social Security Act (Title IV) provides that the Federal Government shall make payments on a grant-in-aid basis to States which have cooperation plans approved by the Social Security Board for furnishing financial assistance to aged needy persons.

"The original act provided that the grant of the Federal Government should be one-half the amount expended for each individual receiving old age assistance entitled to aid, not counting such part of the expenditure for any individual which exceeded $30. The Federal Government also paid an additional amount for administration of the State funds. The 1939 amendments increase the possible Federal contribution for each individual to $20, changing the maximum within which the matching is on a 50-50 basis from $30 to $40.

States Refuse to Provide Adequate Assistance

"The increase in assistance granted by this change is more illusory than real. With Federal funds available up to $15 per person aided if the State supplies an equal amount, the average amount per recipient was $19.24 as of May 15, 1939, and only one State, California, was paying an average of $30 or over. Eight States were paying an average of less than $10, including the Federal grant. The lowest average was $6.05; the highest, $32.46. Obviously with the States not taking full advantage of the opportunity to expend $15 per person, the increase of the offer to $20 per person will not mean much in terms of larger pension payments.

Variable Federal Grants to States Urged

"Labor believes that pensions should be adequate for decent living standards. It believes that the extremes in pensions reflect economic capacity of the States to make provision for their old people, rather than differences in need in various sections. The aged people of the poorer States should be given more income. We believe that Federal grants-in-aid to the States for all of the assistance programs of the Social Security Act should be on a variable basis, a larger proportion of the State expenditure for the assistance of each individual being supplied by the Federal Government in those States with per capita income is below the national average than in those whose income is above that average in order that the poorer States may pay pensions more nearly adequate than at present.

"An amendment for variable grants for old-age assistance, approved by the Social Security Board and by the American Federation of Labor failed to pass at the last session of Congress.

"Another amendment, which would have required the Federal Government to pay two-thirds of the first $15 of expenditure to each eligible individual in every State, passed the Senate but was dropped in conference. This amendment would, if passed, have greatly increased the sums above that appropriated, being expanded at an even pace.

"We are against extravagant programs for one group at the expense of all wage earners who must provide for themselves and their families through many years on wages often too low.

"We must guard against increasing too sharply the burden of taxes on those wages."

The convention also urged "central labor unions and State federations of labor to demand hearings upon the awards. It believes that the extremes in pensions reflect economic capacity of the States to make provision for their old people, rather than differences in need in various sections. The aged people of the poorer States should be given more income. We believe that Federal grants-in-aid to the States for all of the assistance programs of the Social Security Act should be on a variable basis, a larger proportion of the State expenditure for the assistance of each individual being supplied by the Federal Government in those States with per capita income is below the national average than in those whose income is above that average in order that the poorer States may pay pensions more nearly adequate than at present.

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All National and International Union Locals Urged To Join State and City Central Bodies

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter addressed to the officers of national and international unions, State federations of labor and city central labor unions, directed attention to the recommendation of the 1939 A. F. of L. convention that "officers of national and international unions call upon local unions chartered by said national and international unions to affiliate with State federations of labor and local central labor unions, also:

"The Convention expressed the opinion that such action is necessary in order that State federations of labor and city central bodies may exercise a greater influence in the efforts which they are putting forth to secure legislation favorable to the recommendation of the 1939 A. F. of L. convention that "officers of national and international unions call upon local unions chartered by said national and international unions to affiliate with State federations of labor and local central labor unions, also:

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Mr. Green urged the officers and members of all A. F. of L. organizations to make every possible effort to comply with the recommendation of the convention.

OPPOSITION TO A. F. OF L. UNION ORDERED STOPPED

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Mayer Handicap Company, South Norwalk, Connecticut, was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to cease discouraging membership in the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers' Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, and to offer a statement with back pay to three employes.

The union began organizing the company's employes, the board said, during the summer of 1937; the first meeting scheduled by the union was held on September 23 at 5 o'clock. The board found that for some minutes prior to the appointed time Harry S. Mayer, president and general manager of the company, enjoined himself across the street from the hall in which the meeting was to be held. The board also found that at a subsequent meeting on September 30, Mayer and the secretary of the company stationed themselves a few feet distant from the hall in which another meeting was to be held.

The board also found that the company by the spying; by anti-union statements of its president and supervisory employes; by finding fault with union and by the action of the president in attempting to weaken the morale of the union members through a policy of unusual supervision, interfered with its employes in the exercise of their right of self-organization.

The board found that on October 6, six employes in the frame department met with Mayer to ask for higher wages and improved working conditions. Mayer also advised the spokesman to wait awhile as business was slow, and that he would see what could be done later. Upon the results of this conference being reported to the other employes, they immediately went on strike.

The board stated that the "transfers" were within their rights under the Act in striking for the purpose of attempting to secure higher wages

PACKING FIRMS DENIED HOURS ACT EXEMPTION

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Contentions raised by the Institute of American Meat Packers in seeking exemptions from the hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for employees in packing houses were rejected in a letter made public by the Wage and Hour Division. The letter was addressed to the Institute at 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, by Harry A. Macklin, General Counsel of the Division.

The Institute had claimed that the 14-week exception from the 8 hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, provided in Section 7 (c) of the Act, applied to those employes in any place of employment where their employer, his/her daughters or domestic livestock, a guardian of the work done by particular employes. The Institute also contended that the 14 weeks exemption from the hours provision need not be applied simultaneously to the entire plant but could be used in the case of different groups of employes at different times.

Both of these contentions were rejected by the Wage and Hour Division.

and that the respondent's refusal to reinstate them was in violation of that section of the Act which expressly guarantees to employes the right to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining.

The board held that the company's refusal to reinstate the "transfers" was because of their activities in the union members in the plant. The board pointed out that the company thought the union had been responsible for the strike during this period, nevertheless it was obvious that the company could not continue without any "transfers." It was admitted that at least three persons who had not previously been in the employ of the company were hired after the three "transfers" were discharged. Upon this showing the board held that the company discriminated by refusal to reinstate Alphonse Di Martino, James Pastras, and Julius Kish.

BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR HOTEL STRIKERS

New York City Unions Join in Holiday Affair for Employes of Governor Clinton Hotel Who Walked Out in Dispute.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The American Federation of Labor unions banded together to make the holidays merry for the Governor Clinton Hotel strikers.

The New York Hotel Trades Council and Hotel and Club Employees Union Local 6, A. F. of L. affiliates, started the New Year off with a banquet party. There were gayety, goodies and gifts for the hotel strikers and their families who crowded into the large headquarter room of the Soda and Fruit Jobs Dispensers Union, Local 677.

Ernest and Hans Ashers, nationally known puppeteers, and official representatives of the American Guild of Variety Artists, started the ball rolling with a good old-fashioned Punch and Judy show.

Then Mickey Ryan, 11, and Mildred Hupka, 6, daughters of M. Hupka, secretary of Local 802, Musicians Union local 802, sang and played the accordian.

The entertainment continued with Werfle, a guitarist and singer, and Endfield, who pulled rabbits out of a magic hat.

In New York to attend the Installation of the Metropolitan Area Cafeteria Employes Union Local 302, Edward Flore, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America, made a brief visit to the hall in this city to come to the party and greet the fighting strikers and their families.

Miguel Garriga, president of Local 6 and International Vice-president for this district, addressing himself mainly to the children, told them that the best present they could receive was the assurance their parents, now battling in the picket line, would continue to carry high the banner of unionism in the future as in the past. He told them he doubted if there was ever a better Santa Claus for the workers than the unions.

John Quilico, secretary of the Council, played Santa Claus before a blinking Christmas tree and gave each of the children a sweater and a toy, either a table tennis set or a baseball or an airplane. Anyone their parents neglected. The women received pocketbooks, the men wallets, all inscribed with best wishes and greetings from Local 6.

Then, finally, jolly crowding as the kids and grown-ups alike buried their noses in ice cream and cake.

The strike at the Governor Clinton Hotel has been on since last March. It was called because of the refusal of the management to sign a collective bargaining or sign a union agreement. After that New York Hotel Trades Council was certified as collective bargaining agent for the employes. A 35-hour week has been maintained at the hotel for nearly ten months.

A. F. OF L. BARS REDS FROM UNION MEMBERSHIP

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—Emphasis on the action of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor in barring Communists from membership in A. F. of L. national or international unions, State federations of labor and city central labor unions.

"The 59th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning October 2, 1939," the letter said, "reaffirmed the American Federation No. 83 which declared that all national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor refrain from taking into membership any known member of the Communist Party, or active sympathizer; and that said national and international unions immediately dissociate members of the Communist Party or Communist sympathizers from membership in the American Federation of Labor unions."

Mr. Green urged officers and members of all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to make every possible consideration and exercise all efforts possible to put it into effect.

NON-PROFIT MEDICAL SERVICE FOR BOSTON

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS)—Plans for the development of a group medical service in Boston after several years of preparation were announced this week by the Bureau of Cooperative Health Services, which revealed that earlier this year a representative of the Bureau conducted a canvass for a non-profit corporation named Health Service, Inc. The corporation will operate as a non-profit health association, whereby medical and hospital care and service, on a subscription basis, will be provided—to such of the public of low income as become subscribers.

Under the plan, to be called the "Blue Shield," subscribers may choose medical, specialist and surgical care in the home, office or hospital, prevention, nursing, laboratory and diagnostic tests and procedures, x-ray and physiotherapy. Hospitalization service will be arranged for with cooperating physicians for membership fees of $1.50 per month for a single person, $2.50 per month for husband and wife, $3.50 per month for each dependent child, with $6.00 per month family does of $4.00 per month.

The plan provides for a small charge for the care of infants. There are extra charges for the first 4 home calls and deliveries. All are to be covered except pre-existing conditions, treatment of mental, alcoholic and drug addiction cases, compensable cases covered by state law, x-ray and radium therapy.

The service will be rendered through a non-profit medical corporation called Medical and Surgical Associates.

All A. F. L. Unions In California Urged To Join State Federation of Labor

United Action is Necessary to Advance the Economic and Legislative Interest of the Workers, Vandeleur Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

San Francisco, Calif.—An appeal to all American Federation of Labor unions and central bodies in the State to affiliate with the California State Federation of Labor was the keynote of a New Year's message issued by Edward D. Vandeleur, secretary of the State A. F. of L. body.

"The California State Federation of Labor," Mr. Vandeleur said, "is proud of the constructive progress made during the past year, and it is with the sincerity that it conveys gratuitate our loyal trade unionists for their support of the Federation.

"During the year we have substantially increased the number of affiliates, and accomplished much of value to the cause by way of legislation. During the past five years we have added close to 350 units to our list of affiliates, and go far toward strengthening our economic strength to the end that the interests of our members may be better served.

"But there is much yet to be done. And there is one sure way to do it, and that is to enlist every American Federation of Labor local union in California in the Federation. The greater our number of affiliates, the greater will be our strength in demanding support of the rights of Labor.

"Every A. F. of L. body in the State should affiliate, and remain affiliated, with the Federation if it expects to be a live factor in the general Labor Movement. When a local, or a council, gets inflated with the spirit that it is the 'real thing' and everything else connected with the movement is only a figure head, it is a very good deal like the balloon that sails proudly into the air but goes to pieces when it bumps into some branch of a church steeple.

"In seeking legislation, or other advances, affording the workers it is a much greater advantage to have the Federation representatives be able to state representation for 200,000 workers than it is to claim representation for only 300,000. Your strength is doubled, and consideration of your demands is proportionately increased.

"And it is also important that our Central bodies and Unions remain affiliated throughout the year, and not affiliate simply for the purpose of sending delegates to the convention. Temporary affiliations only weaken the general cause.

"It is also important that affiliates pay per capita tax on their full membership so that we may show and be able to prove our true strength when seeking improvement of conditions, as audited reports based on per capita tax payments can only show our real power.

"It is my hope that during the coming year the membership of Federation of Labor body in California will affiliate with the California State Federation of Labor, and remain affiliated throughout the year.

"The New Year is here and there is no doubt that many thousands of additional workers will be enrolled in the ranks of existing or new American Federation of Labor Unions in California because of the benefits that have been secured through our activities in the past.

"To all of those workers who have continued their loyal association with A. F. of L. Unions, and to all those workers who seek larger and genuine protection in their various callings, I extend hearty New Year's greetings in behalf of the California State Federation of Labor."

Support American Federation of State, County And Municipal Employes, Atlanta Labor Urges

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Atlanta, Ga.—A strong resolution urging all A. F. of L. State federations of labor and city centrals in the Southeastern portion of the United States to aid the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes in extending their organization to every community was adopted by the Atlanta Federation of Labor.

"The American Federation of Labor," the resolution said, "has as its aim the organization of all workers regardless of craft or profession, and has made provision for the organization of all workers.

"Governmental workers are in need of organization as much as, or more so, than other workers.

"State, county and municipal employes formerly were organized into federal labor unions. Since the American Federation of Government Employes was finally provided for by separate international union charter issued to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, this being brought about by reason of Federal employes seeking improved conditions by acts of Congress while State employes secure improved conditions by various State legislative acts, and city and county employes by acts of local governing bodies.

"The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes has provided the proper form of organization for employes of State, county and municipal units, and established local unions having proven most valuable additions to the labor movement generally, and are a most valuable value to employes of those governmental branches covered.

"In order to advance the interests of the employes concerned, the resolution urged that State federations of labor and central bodies to exert their every effort, and render every possible assistance toward organization into the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes of all employes of the various States, counties and municipalities."

The resolution also urged support to all State federations of labor and city central bodies in the Southeastern States.

SHORTER WORKDAY FOR BRICKLAYERS IS URGED

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

"Employment for our members, shorter work day, better and safer working conditions" was the slogan suggested for 1940 to the local unions affiliated with the recent Ohio State Conference of Bricklayers' Unions by Frank Jockel, secretary-treasurer of the organization.

A general letter requesting the locals to send in wage rates and proposals and outlining the program for the new year of the conference was sent each local union.

Secretary Jockel reported that the construction outlook for 1940 was "fair," but warned that the building unions would have to look to private industry for construction work unless Congress votes continuance and additional appropriations for PWA.

He urged all unions and individual members to write their United States Senators and Representatives requesting them to support a permanent PWA program and to provide additional funds for the Federal Housing Authority.

WAGE HEARING FOR KNIT GOODS STARTS JAN. 16

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Public hearings on the minimum wage recommendations of Industry Committee No. 8 for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry have been scheduled to begin on January 16, and will continue, respectively, Harold D. Jacobs, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, announced.

Both hearings will be at the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, and will begin at 10 A. M. on the scheduled dates.

The committee for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry under the chairmanship of Joseph Dryden, Professor of Business Economics at the University of Michigan, recommended a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour in this industry. About 30,000 workers are employed in this industry and it is estimated that 7,500 of these are presently earning less than 35 cents an hour.

The reports of these committees, including minimum wage recommendations, are available for inspection at any of the offices of the Wage and Hour Division throughout the country.

BAKERY WORKERS UNION PAYS LARGE BENEFITS

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The importance of sick and death benefits paid by local unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor is well set forth in a recent statement issued by the officials of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America, Chicago, Illinois, regarding the benefits paid by that organization.

Under the caption "International Benefits" the statement said:

Strike and Death Benefits

"After six months' membership, and after a period of initiation, there are payable to both standard and non-beneficiary members 52 per week strike benefits for any legally called and authorized strike of the International Union.

"For standard beneficiary membership, there is paid $10 per week sick benefits, not to exceed fifteen weeks in any twelve consecutive months, provided the member is in accordance with constitutional requirements.

"Death benefits on the same classification, based on length of membership, according to length of membership, are payable as follows:

"$250 for a membership of six months up to one year.

"$500 for a membership of one year up to five years.

"$750 for a membership of five years up to ten years.

"$1000 for a membership of ten years up to fifteen years.

"$2500 for a membership of fifteen years or more.

"In case of the death of standard beneficiary members' wives, there is paid $125 after six months; $250 after one year, and $500 after two years.

Important Features Of Benefit System

"After six months' International membership, there is paid to all classes of members, in case of legally called strike or certified lockout, $2 per week up to ten weeks. A total amount of $60 could thus be paid in any year. Death benefits ranging from 10 cents per month for such benefits could take fifty years to reach this total.

"In less than four years a beneficiary member can draw $200 in sick benefits, and at the rate of 60 cents per month for such benefits, it would take him 27 years and four months to pay for same.

"The total benefits payable in behalf of a beneficiary member who is 15 years is $1,625, and at the rate of 65 cents per month, it would take him 106 years and four months to pay for same."

A. F. of L. Asks $800,000,000 More For Federal Low-Rent Housing Funds

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, favored amendment of the Wagner-Steagall Bill amending the United States Housing Act by providing "for an increase in the authorization of the United States housing authority for financing the construction and for low-rent housing and slum clearance projects by $800,000,000."

The scope of the bill was presented to the convention by the A. F. of L. Executive Council, which reported that the bill passed the United States Senate during the first session of the seventy-sixth Congress and was reported favorably to the House of Representatives by the House Committee on Banking and Currency, but was not reached for consideration by the House during the first session.

In acting on the statement of the Executive Council, the Committee on Building Trades submitted the following report, which the convention adopted:

"Low Rent Housing

"Under this chption on pages 118 and 119 of the report of the Executive Council is a history of the effort made, in keeping with the action of the 1938 convention of the American Federation of Labor, to secure the passage of the United States Housing Act of 1939.

"Your committee commends the action of the officers of the American Federation of Labor, together with the committee on housing consisting of Vice-President Bates, Vice-President Canfield and Brother Colleran, president of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association, upon their efforts, in keeping with the action of the 1938 Convention of the American Federation of Labor, to secure the passage and continuity of the low rent housing and slum clearance program administered by the United States Housing Administration.

"Under the guidance of these officers, bills for this purpose were reported favorably to both Houses of Congress, which because of adjournment, were not given final consideration. These bills will be acted upon by Congress early in 1940 at which time we are hopeful of securing their final passage.

"To this end we recommend that the officers continue their effort to secure this much desired legislation."

International Labor Office Functions Despite European War, Goodrich Says

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Far from going into hibernation at Geneva, the International Labor Organization is determined to continue its activities and even expand them, Carter Goodrich, United States Commissioner of Labor at Geneva, told a breakfast meeting of the American Political Science Association at the Wardman Park Hotel.

Mr. Goodrich, a former economics professor at Columbia University, was recently elected chairman of the I. L. O. Governing Body and is in this country after attending a regional conference in the 16 New World members of the I. L. O. held at Havana early in December. He will return to Switzerland shortly to preside over the first assembly of the I. L. O. directorate summoned since the outbreak of war in Europe.

Reporting full attendance of governments, employers and workers members of a special emergency committee in October, Mr. Goodrich interpreted this as an important manifestation of the world's interest in keeping the I. L. O. machine functioning. This committee's decision to persevere despite the fighting has since been approved by the overwhelming majority of the I. L. O.'s 56 member nations, he said.

Mr. Goodrich expressed some doubt as to the possibility of adopting further labor conventions because of the hostility but declared that the I. L. O. can fulfill an important function in gathering facts and data and giving advice with regard to the new labor problems provoked by the war in both neutral and belligerent countries. He continued:

"The I. L. O. was created in the last Peace Conference; it will, if I judge its temper rightly, ask for a place in the next one. Certainly we should not expect the workers to ask a less of the next peace conference than of the last one and the I. L. O. may well be the instrument through which these demands are taken into account."

Ban On All Forms of Discrimination Based On Race or Color Demanded by A. F. of L.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter addressed to the officers of national and international unions, State federations of labor and city central labor unions, directed attention to the adoption by the 1939 A. F. of L. convention of the report of the committee on law dealing with resolutions, declarations for the abolition of all forms of discrimination on account of race or color.

The resolution, Mr. Green said, "directed that national and international unions, State federations of labor, city central labor unions and local trade and Federal Labor unions express their definite opposition to any discrimination and support legislation to secure full civil and political rights for the Negro people."

Mr. Green urged that the officers and members of all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor take special note of this recommendation of the A. F. of L. convention and exercise all efforts possible to make it effective.

Placer Gold Mining Exempt From 42-Hour Week

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The seasonal exemption from the maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of the open-cut mining of placer gold in Alaska and in the States of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming was made final by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Under the exemption, the exemption was first made by the Arctic Circle Exploration Company and other placer gold operators over seven years ago and was the subject of a public hearing June 19 and 20 in Washington.

Announcement of the intention to grant the exemption was made in November at which time opportunity was given to file objections during a 30-day waiting period. None was made, the action of the Wage and Hour Division makes the exemption final.

Under the exemption granted, gold placer mining companies in the area covered are permitted to work their employees 12 hours a day or 56 hours a week but not more than 6 workweeks in the aggregate in any calendar year without the necessity of paying them time and one-half for overtime. The exemption does not relieve the wage requirement that at least 30 cents an hour be paid.

The exemption covers the mining of placer gold from surface or open-cuts, which includes the extraction of such gold from pit, bank or marine deposits by hand or power methods, but does not embrace any underground operations. Approximately 50 per cent of the placer gold production in the continental United States, territories and possessions is produced in the area covered by the exemption.

WASHINGTON PAPERS LAUD LABOR'S APPLE CAMPAIGN

Sale Drive to Assist Farmers and Fruit Growers to Dispose of Big Surplus Is Praised in All Parts of the State.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Seattle, Wash.—Week after week newspapers of Washington continue to praise the labor movement for its meeting the sale of the apple crop to assist the farmers and fruit growers. Significant is the fact that favorable editorial comment comes from all sections of the State.

The Yakima Republic, in a recent issue commenting on the effects of the campaign, says: "The State Federation of Labor and its president, James A. Taylor, are meeting with their help to get Washington apples into consumption. A box at a time, 2,000 or 3000 a day, seems too small and none too large to dent the active surplus of the various apples throughout the State. To say their efforts are appreciated by growers and fruit-handlers is fractionally understate the situation. Nothing could bring about a better feeling and a desire for mutual understanding more surely than such cooperation."

Other newspapers are favorably on the campaign of the State Federation of Labor include The Bremerton Journal-Times, The Pullman Herald, The Seattle Star, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Okanogan Independent, The Tacoma Journal, The Spokane Chronicle, The Grays Harbor Washingtonian, The East Wenatchee Journal, The Snoqualmie Valley Record, The Ellensburg Record, The Mount Vernon Daily Herald, and The Raymond Advertiser.

WASHINGTON INSPECTORS WIN BARGAINING AGENCY

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The National Labor Relations Board certified that the Northwest Lumber Inspectors' Union, Local No. 20877, and the I. L. O., jointly selected as the sole collective bargaining agent by a majority of the lumber inspectors of the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, Inc., in the States of Oregon and Washington.

The certification followed the results of a secret ballot election conducted by mail which showed a count of 180 for the Inspectors Union to 129 for the Northwest Lumber Inspectors Association.

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Uniform Standards For Unemployment Compensation Demanded by A. F. of L.

Benefits Paid Under Present System in Some States Are Unjustly Low and Deny the Principle of Social Security, Green Declares in Commenting on A. F. of L. Bill Introduced in Congress to Provide New Basis for Both Payments to Jobless and Waiting Periods.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Amendments to the Social Security Act setting up uniform standards for State-Federal systems of unemployment compensation were introduced in Congress on January 9, by Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts at the request of the American Federation of Labor. Arrangements also have been made with Chairman James F. Byrnes to have the bill presented for consideration to the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Unemployment and Relief.

President William Green declared the amendments were made necessary because, in the absence of any Federal minimum compensation standards, unemployment compensation laws now vary widely in the different States and in most cases fall far short of the objective of the Act.

Underpayed Paid Low Weekly Benefits

The average weekly benefit payments in the nation during the first quarter of 1939 was $10.15.

"The benefits paid in many States are a travesty on the principle of economic security," Mr. Green said. "In some cases the weekly average benefit paid does not justify the costs of administration. The American Federation of Labor feels that more adequate compensation should be provided for the workers to tide them over jobs they have to depend on for a living. We have therefore prepared these amendments and will urge Congress to adopt them."

Minimum Standards Summarized

A summary of the minimum standards to be established by the amendments, together with explanatory notes on present conditions, follows:

1. Benefits paid shall equal at least 50 per cent of full time weekly earnings, but not less than $6 nor more than $24. (At present unemployment compensation benefits in most States are calculated on the basis of 50 per cent of actual earnings.) Thus an employe who had worked only half time before losing his job, might get only a quarter of full time earnings as unemployment compensation. The minimum in most States now is about $5 a week and the maximum $15, but a number of States fix no minimum.

Waiting Period Reduced

2. The waiting period shall not be more than one week. (Present waiting periods provided in most States are two to three weeks. That shall be employe does not get paid. It frequently takes four to five weeks before the employe receives his first payment.)

Benefits For Twenty Weeks Demanded

3. Benefits shall be payable to all eligible persons for a period of twenty weeks. Most States now can pay for sixteen weeks but because of technicalities of qualifications, benefits are paid on an average for only eight weeks.

4. Total contributions from any State shall average not less than 2.7 per cent of the total annual payroll taxable under the State laws.

Cancellation of Earned Credits Banned

5. There shall be no cancellation of earned credits, but shall be offered as against employes shall take the form of an increased waiting period, but in no case longer than a total of six weeks.

Establishment of minimum standards as provided in the above amendments shall by necessary in order for the State law to be approved by the Social Security Board.

Creation of Re-Insurance Fund Urged

In order to enable all States to meet these requirements the bill provides for establishing a "Federal Unemployment Re-Insurance Fund." For this purpose, the excess of total amounts collected by the Federal Government for unemployment compensation over amounts expended for administration is appropriated and such additional funds as may be needed. A re-insurance fund will make possible the maintenance of national standards, and will remove a condition of unfair competition between States. The Federal Government would then be in a position of really assuring economic security to all citizens dependent upon employment in industry for their incomes.

Lower Contribution Rate For Prosperous States

For such States as are able to pay higher benefits than those required by these amendments to the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code, additional credits for a lower contribution rate will be granted provided that in addition to conformity with the required standards, benefits are paid for a higher number of weeks. For such additional credits the schedule shall be:

If compensation is paid for 22 weeks, the contribution rate shall not be less than 2.5 per cent.

If compensation is paid for 24 weeks, the contribution rate shall not be less than 2.0 per cent.

If compensation is paid for 26 weeks, the contribution rate shall not be less than 1.5 per cent of taxable payrolls.

Increase Pay

"The only reference to labor in the FCC report is that the interests of labor should be specifically protected in the legislation itself.' A copy of this agreement will be given to the Labor Brotherhoods and the railroads, covering severance pay allowances in event of merger or consolidation, is included as an appendix, indicating that that is what the Commission had in mind.

"The benefits of two competing telegraph companies will be pooled and to labor have not been, and cannot be reflected. The Western Union and Postal are furnishing the identical service which, with all of its defects, it offers, a consolidated company that would a telegraph monopoly.

No Provision For Thousands of Jobless Telegraph Workers

"We see nothing in the FCC's report which will give telegraph workers the slightest hope of re-employment for the 25,000 workers furloughed or thrown out of employment by the merger of Western Union Postal, in addition, has 6,000 less employes in 1939 as compared with 1934. Likewise, there are 4,000,000 messages higher in 1938 as compared with 1930.

Merger Will Increase Unemployed

"The Commercial Telegraphers Union will continue its fight against a merger just as it has done since the question was first raised by the Postal in 1934. That the action by the CIU has pointed out that the closing up of duplicate branch offices and duplicate delivery offices cannot throw thousands of workers onto an already congested unemployment list. So-called gentlemen's agreements have already closed up many branches, to the detriment of the service now given the public.

"The Federal Communications Commission suggests that it be given the job of 'regulating' and administering the telegraph industry if it is authorized by Congress.

Telegraph Workers Lack Confidence in the FCC

"Telegraph workers who have watched nearly 30,000 workers go out on 'furlough' and the increase in additional workers placed on part time, can have no confidence in a Commission which does not even recommend to a congressional committee that certain glaring evils should be corrected.

"If the FCC does not recommend that the Bell System's monopoly should then be divorced from its telephone system, it is unlikely that the Commission will take steps to correct the injustice when the monopoly is placed under its control.

Low Rates Ahead

Government Continue

"If the FCC does not recommend that the Federal government put a stop to telegraph rates equal to those paid by the public, it certainly is not likely to correct that inequality if a monopoly is set up.

"The same logical assumption must be arrived at in connection with the competition by government bodies which have leased wires or radio facilities and hamper telegraph business for other government departments.

"Nor does the FCC make any recommendations that the subsidies to air mail carriers should be abolished or reduced, although it does admit that air mail competition is a contributing factor to the present plight of the telegraph companies. It is hardly possible that the FCC, with regulation of the telegraph monopoly in its hands, will take any effective steps to regulate that subsidized competition.

Fields of Telegraph Industry Not Touched

"It was the duty of the FCC to make specific recommendations for the clearing up of many long-recognized evils in the telegraph industry. For unknown reasons the FCC has merely made a statistical report to the Wheeler committee, with but one definite recommendation.

"It now becomes the duty of organized labor as represented by the CIU to not only protest against any merger at all, but to continue its protests against the hardly disguised permitted by the FCC, which has brought financial difficulties to the telegraph companies.

Low Wages Paid Operators

"Average monthly compensation of Western Union operators for the year 1937 was $125.00 and Postal $83.00. Except for isolated instances, such as Washington where the CIO has an agreement with Western Union, these averages prevail today. The FCC, however, does not say anything about the problem of reconciling the merging of employes receiving an average of $42 a month less than other employes.

Merger Will Be Victimized by Merger

"If we analyze the effects of a merger, it is clear that there will be no need for 1206 Postal main offices and 774 Postal branch offices. Solicitors and messengers will be cut off and the public will have to look for a telegraph office. The present system of aggressively hunting for business will not be continued.

"General office staffs and accounting departments will be consolidated, throwing additional workers out of employment. Duplicate installations of printers in customers' offices will be discontinued, throwing out plant and equipment men.

Service to Public Will Deteriorate

"From the public standpoint, a telegraph monopoly will leave unproductive communities without service. At present both companies maintain branches for the convenience of the public. There is no assurance that the FCC will compel a monopoly to continue service if the telegraph monopoly claims the amount of business does not warrant such service.

"The failure of the FCC to make specific recommendations for the regulation of a telegraph monopoly leaves organized labor with no confidence that the Commission will regulate the industry, or to compel employment of additional labor.

"For many years a merger has been advocated by Postal and I. T. & T. Because of strong opposition by the AFL and CIU, nothing came of it. Then, in 1939, the CIO group caused to be introduced a resolution known as Senate Resolution No. 95, for the ostensible purpose of 'investigating the telegraphs.' Hearings on that bill were barred to the AFL and CIU. The CIO spokesman urged immediate action.

"Let us not forget for a minute that the telegraph merger was a dead issue until it was revived by the so-called labor organization. Instead of fighting to continue employment, the organization has quite obviously made a deal with Postal to arrange for absorption of the telegraph property, regardless of what happens to Postal or WU workers."

Telegraph Companies Merger Fought By Commercial Telegraphers Union

Private Monopoly Favored by Federal Communications Commission Would Result in Inferior Service and Destruction of Thousands of Jobs, President of A. F. of L. Affiliate Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Chicago, Ill.—A strong condemnation of the merger of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies proposed by the Federal Communications Commission is expressed by President Powers of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, in an article entitled "Telegraph Merger Must Be Blocked" published in the January issue of the Commercial Telegraphers Journal, the official organ of the union.

The article emphasizes that nearly 30,000 workers have been dropped from the telegraph industry since 1930, that the Federal Communications Commission makes no mention of responsibility to provide employment for these jobless workers, and that inferior service would result from the merger, which would also bring about the dismissal of many more employes.

The text of the article in the Commercial Telegraphers Journal follows:

"The Federal Communications Commission has recommended that the Western Union and Postal should be merged and placed under the administration of the Commission. The Senate Telegraph Investigating Committee, which will consider the report, is now charged with the job of making specific recommendations to Congress after considering all parties, including organized labor.

Bell System Is Excluded

"Contrary to predictions in the New York Times, the Commission's FCC refrained from recommending that the Bell System's telegraph business be turned over to the telegraph company. Neither does the FCC make any recommendations that subsidies be curtailed or abolished; that government telegraph rates should be increased or that government agencies should not compete with telegraph companies.

Severance Pay Allowance Visioned

"The only reference to labor in the FCC report is that the interests of labor should be specifically protected in the legislation itself.' A copy of this agreement will be given to the Labor Brotherhoods and the railroads, covering severance pay allowances in event of merger or consolidation, is included as an appendix, indicating that that is what the Commission had in mind.

"The benefits of two competing telegraph companies will be pooled and to labor have not been, and cannot be reflected. The Western Union and Postal are furnishing the identical service which, with all of its defects, it offers, a consolidated company that would a telegraph monopoly.

No Provision For Thousands of Jobless Telegraph Workers

"We see nothing in the FCC's report which will give telegraph workers the slightest hope of re-employment for the 25,000 workers furloughed or thrown out of employment by the merger of Western Union Postal, in addition, has 6,000 less employes in 1939 as compared with 1934. Likewise, there are 4,000,000 messages higher in 1938 as compared with 1930.

Merger Will Increase Unemployed

"The Commercial Telegraphers Union will continue its fight against a merger just as it has done since the question was first raised by the Postal in 1934. That the action by the CIU has pointed out that the closing up of duplicate branch offices and duplicate delivery offices cannot throw thousands of workers onto an already congested unemployment list. So-called gentlemen's agreements have already closed up many branches, to the detriment of the service now given the public.

"The Federal Communications Commission suggests that it be given the job of 'regulating' and administering the telegraph industry if it is authorized by Congress.

Telegraph Workers Lack Confidence in the FCC

"Telegraph workers who have watched nearly 30,000 workers go out on 'furlough' and the increase in additional workers placed on part time, can have no confidence in a Commission which does not even recommend to a congressional committee that certain glaring evils should be corrected.

"If the FCC does not recommend that the Bell System's monopoly should then be divorced from its telephone system, it is unlikely that the Commission will take steps to correct the injustice when the monopoly is placed under its control.

Low Rates Ahead

Government Continue

"If the FCC does not recommend that the Federal government put a stop to telegraph rates equal to those paid by the public, it certainly is not likely to correct that inequality if a monopoly is set up.

"The same logical assumption must

P. J. McArdle Dies In Pittsburgh, Pa.

Former Labor Leader Served On City Council for 28 Years—Was Authority on Municipal Affairs.

Pittsburgh, Pa. (AFLWNS).—Peter J. McArdle, a public figure for twenty-eight years and a recognized authority on municipal affairs, died at his home here January 1. On Christmas day Mr. McArdle was stricken with an embolism in the cardiac artery from which he did not recover. He was sixty-five years of age.

Mr. McArdle was born in Belpre, Ohio, where he was five his parents both died. He became a steel worker at fifteen without benefit of any except rudimentary education. He was elected vice president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers while he lived in Indiana and in 1905 he was elected president of that union, serving in that capacity until 1911 when he resigned following his election as a member of the Pittsburgh City Council.

He was re-elected to the City Council for a number of terms and died two hours before he would have been sworn in for another four-year term.

D. C. TYPOS HONOR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Banquet In Nation's Capital Attended by Seven Hundred.

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—The banquet given at the Willard Hotel here by Columbia Typographical Union No. 101 on January 6 in celebration of its 125th anniversary was attended by over seven hundred persons, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in a brief talk credited the International Typographical Union with the financial difficulties to the Government's social security program.

In addition to Mrs. Roosevelt, the speakers included Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor; Augustus E. Giegengack, public printer; Clarence J. Despier, president of Columbia Typographical Union; James I. Wallgren who represented Senator Newbold, business manager of the Washington Star; Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post; Claude M. Baker, president of the International Typographical Union; Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the I. T. U.; John B. Colpoys, editor of the Typographical Journal; Trades Unionist and United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, and Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer emeritus of the American Federation of Labor, who gave the anniversary toast as follows:

"Here's to a future anniversary. Then, as now, may it be celebrated by another era of human advancement—advancement for the benefit of the printing craft, for the labor movement by solidarity of purpose, unity in action, and by toward a common goal to build a strong and powerful organization of printers."

Frances Rich sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Among the other guests were Dewey Jones, Mary La Dame, secretary of Labor; Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department; Mary La Dame, special assistant to the Secretary of Labor; John R. Steelman, director of the conciliation service of the Labor Department; Harry B. Mitchell, member of the Social Security Commission; Samuel J. Gompers, son of the late Samuel Gompers; Edward Nockels, chief clerk in the office of the Labor Secretary; John B. Dickman, Sr., past president of the Columbia Typographical Union; Francis G. Barrett, first vice president, and John J. Conley, first vice president of the I. T. U.; John Locher, president of the Central Labor Union; Miss Dora Weyl, actress and screen actress, and Mrs. Nellie V. Wilson, holder of a printer's card for more than 50 years.

DOWELL EXPOSES C. I. O. AUTO UNION'S CLAIM

Lewis Group Has Sole Bargaining Right in Only Two General Motors Plants, Official of A. F. L. Affiliate Declares.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Detroit, Mich.—A complete exposure of the unfounded claims of the C. I. O. Auto Workers Union as to their bargaining rights in plants of the General Motors Company was given here by William E. Dowell, director of General Motors Locals for the A. F. of L. International Union United Automobile Workers of America, in an address here before Local No. 60 of the A. F. of L. affiliate.

In answer to the C. I. O. union's statement that they have sole bargaining rights in the General Motors plants, Mr. Dowell said the A. F. of L. United Automobile Workers Union has won bargaining rights in only two General Motors plants, in Oakland, California and Janesville, Wisconsin, both of which have been granted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Turning to the recent progress of the A. F. of L. United Automobile Workers, Mr. Dowell gave impressive figures on the increase of dues paying membership. He said that 1,500 additional members paid their dues into the international union during the month of October in Norwood, Ohio, the per capita tax increased from $715 for the month of October to $893 for the month of November, in Janesville, Wisconsin, Local No. 121 paid per capita tax on 450 members for the month of October and 1,000 for the month of November. He said the membership in Baltimore, Maryland, had doubled their per capita for November and that similar increases were reported in the Chevrolet Division and other General Motors plants throughout the country.

Mr. Dowell reported that the C. I. O. was living on nothing but propaganda, that nationally the American Federation of Labor was gaining in prestige every day, while the C. I. O. through their Communistic tactics and left-wing irresponsible leadership had acquired the condemnation of the public, the employers, and practically all fine members they used to have. In fact, he declared, it has got to the point where the members of the C. I. O. are ashamed to wear their buttons in public.

A.F.L. Boot-Shoe Union Acted Firmly Against Importing Czech Shoe Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

case and submitted positive proof of the union's persistent activities against the importation of the Czech instructors. This article contains the text of Mr. Moore's letter.

January 2, 1940.

Edwin L. James, Managing Editor,
New York Times,
Times Square, New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Apparently it has been our misfortune, in the past, to look to the news columns of the New York Times for what your masthead alleges, "All the news that's fit to print." The above quotation, to my mind, means the printing and dissemination of legitimate and not biased or propagandized news.

In the story pertaining to the Bata Shoe Company, printed in the New York Times of December 29, 1939, you will note that your Louis Stark reports:

"An earlier protest was made by the Shoe and Boot Workers Union of the A. F. of L., which did not follow up its complaint."

This quotation, we must assume, deals with the fact that the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was the first to file a complaint with the Department of Labor against the importation of the officials of the Department of Labor in openly contravening the laws of the United States and, without the slightest investigation on their part, setting aside the provisions accorded to American shoe workers under the provisions of the Contract Labor Law.

First you must assume that your Mr. Stark, having reported several conventions of the American Federation of Labor, should know that there is no "Shoe and Boot Workers Union." Apparently his bias, or perhaps the influences to which he reacts, insisted that while he was forced to report that the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, of the A. F. of L. made the first complaint, he should seek to mislead your readers by misrepresenting the proper name of our organization.

It was only some ten days ago that through a mutual friend Mr. Stark requested of me our file on this subject. Not only did I furnish that file, but I also have since then furnished with copies of reports made to the Department of Labor last September by their own experts showing that the laws of the United States were being violated, that there was no machinery, with the possible exception of one machine, wherein the services of any foreign shoe machinery expert was necessary, and, that certain of these importers were exempt from the plant for no good reason.

I might add, too, that your Mr. Stark was present at the recent Cincinnati convention of the American Federation of Labor, and if he was actually interested in reporting the activities of that convention would have known, as shown on page 468 of the printed proceedings of that convention, that the undersigned addressed the convention and directed attention to the violations of the laws on the part of the Department of Labor officials and the Bata Shoe Company.

These proceedings further show that I reported that the convention of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union held last June, considered this matter; that the convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor acted upon it at the request of representatives of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union and they were responsible for having a resolution presented to the American Federation of Labor convention, which likewise acted upon the subject.

All of the activities and complaints herein cited were called to the attention of the Department of Labor and to many members of the Congress, among them Congressman Lawrence J. Connery, who also filed a strong protest with the Department of Labor.

Thus, while your Mr. Stark properly credits, or would have us believe he will allege he properly credits, our organization with making the first complaint against the false representations which permitted the Bata Shoe Company to import some 70 supposed shoe machinery "experts" and the wives of many of them, he openly, and, we must assume from the facts herein stated, knowingly misrepresented the true facts when he reports that this organization did not follow up its complaint.

In view of this knowledge on the part of Mr. Stark we think it comes with extremely poor grace for him to show his apparent bias and his apparent willingness to be the tool to use the columns of your publication to spread the poisonous propaganda of, and to so openly promote the interests of, the C. I. O. (in some circles referred to as the Communists International Order) as he does in this story.

I am sending this information to you for such use as you care to make of it. Copies of this letter are being sent to all members of our organization and to the editors of publications issued by labor organizations in order that they may realize how little they can depend upon the contents of the New York Times for accuracy and truthful presentation of the news.

Very truly yours,
JOHN J. MARA.

Lives of 8,000 Union Members Insured For $4,000,000 by Electrical Workers

Cost of Each $500 Policy Issued to Members of New York Local Is Included in Union Dues.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York—St. Nicholas Arcadia, 8,000 life insurance policies totaling $4,000,000 have been underwritten by Class "B" members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, according to an announcement made today by Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., business manager of the union. Each policy provides a $500 death benefit for the dependents of deceased members. The cost of carrying the new insurance is included in the Class "B" union dues, which is $2 monthly.

The insurance is carried by the newly organized Electrical Workers Insurance Bureau, which is a society, its constitution states, "is organized for the mutual protection of its members and their families and to promote the cultural and fraternal interests of the membership."

Mr. Van Arsdale pointed out that the granting of this insurance to 8,000 members brings the total death benefits carried by the union up to $25,000,000. At present, he said, the union's 6,500 "A" members, consisting mostly of electrical construction workers, carry $3,000 each in death benefits, while 1,500 miscellaneous members are covered by $1,000 policies.

Extension of German-Japan-Russian Goods Boycott Urged by A. F. of L.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Emphasis on the action of the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor in favor of refraining from purchasing goods produced and services rendered by Germany, Japan, and Russia was expressed by William Green, president of the Federation, in a letter sent to officers of national and international unions, State federations of labor and city central labor unions.

"The convention reaffirmed declarations made by previous conventions in favor of a boycott against Japanese goods and Japanese services so long as Japan persists in the subjugation of a war against China and the Chinese people," Mr. Green said.

"It also reaffirmed its previous declaration in favor of the boycott against German goods and German services until such time as the rights of minority groups living in Germany are fully and freely recognized and until the right of free trade unions to exist and function has been fully recognized.

"The convention further added a declaration in favor of the application of the boycott against Russian manufactured goods and services and that it be further applied to all other countries offering aid to Germany and Russia in the present conflict between the totalitarian governments and the great parliamentary nations of Europe."

Mr. Green urged the officers and members of the A. F. of L. affiliated unions to take special note of these recommendations of the 1939 convention and exercise all possible efforts to make them effective.

N. Y. LABOR HAS BIG LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Ratification of Federal Child Labor Amendment Included in Measures Approved for 1940.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Albany, N. Y.—Following the annual legislative conference of the New York State Federation of Labor here, the Executive Council adopted a legislative program of the Federation's proposals for labor legislation for the year 1940. It has preferred major proposals in five fields.

Ratification by the Legislature of the Federal Child Labor Amendment.

State licensing and regulation of fee-charging employment agencies.

Providing for an Exclusive State Insurance Fund as the sole carrier of compensation insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Law.

Protecting union pickets in industrial disputes from arrest on charges of disorderly conduct, and requiring trial by jury of any persons who may be arrested on such charges in connection with an industrial dispute.

Increasing Workmen's Compensation Law benefits for the victims of silicosis and other occupational dust diseases with provision for early removal of all existing limitations on that disability and death resulting from silicosis. Same and like provisions to be added in the same manner as those resulting from accidents.

The Executive Council feels that evidence secured in violation of the new amendments to the State Constitution prohibiting unreasonable searches and seizures and the intercepting of telephone and telegraph communications shall not be admitted in any trial or legal proceeding.

Besides dealing with the major proposals, the Executive Council approved thirty-four bills embodying the text of resolutions adopted by the annual convention of the State Federation of Labor.

ALBERT J. BERRES DIES; FORMER A.F.L. OFFICIAL

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS).—Albert J. Berres, former industrial representative of the Motion Picture Producers Association and former secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, died at the home of his brother, Frank J. Berres, on January 7. He was sixty-six years of age.

He was a close friend of President Roosevelt for more than a quarter of a century and was a frequent visitor to the White House and at Hyde Park, New York.

Born in Washington, December 29, 1873, Mr. Berres went at St. Joseph's parochial school and spent his youth with Father Walter B. Hall, pastor of the parish where he served as an altar boy at the church.

Mr. Berres was married to Daisy Rhoy in Washington in 1902. His wife died in California about six years ago.

At an early age he became a patent maker's apprentice at the Washington Navy Yard and was employed there for many years. He assisted in the development of the first breech mechanism for naval guns of large caliber.

He became a member of the Pattern Makers' League of North America early in life and retained his membership until his death.

In 1912 he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, holding that position until his appointment by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917 to the Shipbuilding Labor Adjustment Board. The following year he was appointed to the Naval Wage Board of Review by the President.

In 1920 he went to California to fill the position of industrial secretary of the Motion Picture Producers Association, remaining in Hollywood until his retirement a few years ago. In 1934 he was drafted by President Roosevelt to serve on the Federal Aviation Commission.

Funeral services for Mr. Berres were held at his brother's home. Requiem mass was sung at St. Joseph's church. Burial was in Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

Surviving are his son, Albert J. Berres, Jr., manager of the American Red Cross in Detroit, Michigan; two brothers, Frank and Albert J. Berres, Sr., also of Detroit, besides his brother.

93 Lawyers Suspended From California Bar Association; Fail To Pay Dues

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The California Lawyers' Union, otherwise known as the State Bar of California, has every labor union beat for showing organized a never failing method of collecting dues from delinquent members.

The "Recorder," which is the official legal daily publication of San Francisco, under date of December 13, 1939, sets forth an action of the State bar association, the governing body of the legal profession, which suspended 93 practicing attorneys from membership in the State bar for failure to pay their annual dues. By so doing the court denied these lawyers the privilege of practicing their profession from earning a livelihood at their chosen profession. The "Recorder" says that unfortunate 93 lawyers will have to starve until all accrued dues, fees and penalties have been paid up in full.

A great deal has been said about the evils and the injustices of the check-off system, but for a genuinely effective method of collecting dues nothing does it would scarcely be possible to improve upon the steps adopted by the California State Bar.

A check-off cannot take place unless the employe has some money due him but these 93 lawyers may not have a cent in their possession, they may be right up against it, yet they are required to pay union dues before they are again permitted to practice law and earn the wherewithall to support themselves.

F. J. Dillon Hurt In Motor Accident

A. F. of L. Representative in Toledo Suffers Back Injuries in Auto Mishap.

Toledo, Ohio (AFLWNS).—Francis J. Dillon, representative of the American Federation of Labor in Toledo and surrounding territory, recently met with a painful and near fatal accident.

Mr. Dillon was returning from Springfield, Ohio, where he had visited his mother when, just outside of Bellefontaine, he ran onto a strip of ice which caused his car to skid and leave the road.

The car crashed into a tree and Mr. Dillon was badly shaken and bruised. Although receiving back injuries which were painful, he did not that he was extremely fortunate in escaping so easily.